

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Tuesday, November 24, 2015

## Kerry: US Trying To Speed Up Efforts To Defeat Islamic State

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

**ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — The United States is seeking new military, counterterrorism and diplomatic ideas to destroy the Islamic State group faster, Secretary of State John Kerry said Monday, acknowledging the difficulty in eliminating extremists who've exploited



Standing without shoes as a sign of respect in the mosque, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, and Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan speak to the media after touring the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Monday, Nov. 23, 2015. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, Pool)

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four years of chaos in the Middle East to become a global threat. He said greater military coopera-

tion with Russia was possible under the right circumstances.

Kerry spoke between

meetings with senior Arab officials in the United Arab Emirates, and as the Belgian capital of Brussels was

in virtual lockdown over terror threats a continent away.

**Continued on page 3**

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# Kerry: US trying to speed up efforts to defeat Islamic State

Continued from front

President Barack Obama's administration faces pressure at home and abroad to step up the fight against the Islamic State after its Nov. 13 attack in Paris killed 130 people. Obama meets French President Francois Hollande in Washington on Tuesday.

"The key is to destroy Daesh rapidly in Syria and in Iraq," Kerry told reporters, using an alternative term for the Islamic State.

"I'd like to see us go faster," he said. "The president would like to see us go faster."

The chief American diplomat said Obama was asking everyone in the U.S. government for new concepts to speed up the fight. Some steps were in motion before the Paris attack, he said, such as the decision to deploy some U.S. special forces to Syria and ongoing efforts toward a cease-fire between Syria and rebel groups.

But Kerry didn't outline any specific post-Paris additions to the strategy.

He made no mention of any country authorizing a large-scale deployment of boots on the ground to Syria, as some Republican presidential candidates have suggested. And he dismissed the notion of a no-fly zone in Syria, proposed just last week by his predecessor as secretary of state, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton. He said it was "not a new idea."

Kerry didn't rule out greater cooperation with Russia, which Hollande is expected to ask Obama about. Obama and other U.S. officials say Russia must first limit airstrikes to the Islamic State and other extremist groups, and not Western-backed, moderate forces. If rebels see new cooperation with Russia as designed to keep Syrian President Bashar Assad in power, "that complicates issues, and then you will have greater support going to bad actors."

"It has to be done in a way that manages the passions

and the disappointment and the sacrifices and the anger that exists on the ground among people who have been fighting Assad for four years now," Kerry said. "You have to do this in a way that actually brings them to the cease-fire."

Separately, the U.S. military said it destroyed 283 tanker trucks used by IS militants to transport oil from producing fields in eastern Syria to smuggling points in an acceleration of attacks on one of the militants' most important sources of income.

The attack by four A-10 attack planes and two AC-130 gunships was carried out Saturday at a site near Deir el-Zour and al-Hassakah but not made public until Monday. It followed a similar assault on Nov. 15 that destroyed 116 tanker trucks as part of a concerted campaign to cripple the militants' oil revenues. Kerry said IS militants "are losing territory, they are losing towns, they are losing people, they are losing oil revenue." But they're gaining support from other terrorist groups around the world, making defeating them more urgent.

"We have to cut off this notion of success," he said, by which IS "gets a cheapie: Someone who already is a terrorist does something in their name."

Kerry was clearest in outlining his focus in the overall strategy: Getting Assad and moderate rebels into a political transition process. A truce could be a couple of weeks away, he insisted, even if several matters remain unresolved.

Kerry said discussions Monday with Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir touched on Ahrar ash-Sham. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey back the hard-line Islamist force; Assad's government and its defenders, Iran and Russia, see it as a terrorist entity.

Kerry sought a middle line. "You don't want to categorize everybody automatically," he said. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, asks a reporter to let him meet with Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, left, and Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, before asking them questions, at a photo opportunity in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Nov. 23, 2015 where the three were meeting to discuss Syria.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, Pool)

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## Sanders invokes MLK legacy as he aims for black support

**BILL BARROW**

**Associated Press**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is invoking the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. as he tries to increase black support in his bid to catch Hillary Rodham Clinton. Campaigning in the slain

civil rights leader's hometown of Atlanta on Monday, the Vermont senator paid his respect at the slain civil rights leader's crypt and visited privately with one of King's children, Bernice King, at the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

After the meeting, Sand-

ers said Martin Luther King Jr. has been "an inspiration to me for my entire life," not just for his work to end racial segregation but because of his demands — often less remembered — for economic opportunity for all Americans, the central theme of Sanders' presidential campaign.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., left, meets with Dr. Bernice King, daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., during a visit to The King Center Monday, Nov. 23, 2015, in Atlanta.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

Former Secretary of State Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, has built a lead in the early voting states, gains that have come amid other signs the party is coalescing behind her. But the nomination fight is far from over as Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley try to garner more support. Sanders, 74, participated in the famous 1963 march that concluded with King's "I Have a Dream" speech, noted that the event was officially "The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom."

"Sometimes people forget he was assassinated because he stood up with sanitation workers fighting for decent wages and decent working conditions," Sanders said, referring to King being shot in 1968 in Memphis, where he went to support striking workers. Sanders added that King

was, at the time of his death, planning another march for the poor.

"It was a march not just of African-Americans, but of Latinos, of whites, of all people in this country to march on Washington to demand fundamental changes in our national priorities," said Sanders, who calls on the campaign trail for a "political revolution" in the U.S. Bernice King did not take questions after she met with Sanders.

The visit to the King Center comes as part of a campaign swing through Southern states who will vote early in the nominating contest next year. Clinton has maintained a considerable advantage among African-Americans voters, who form the backbone of the Democratic electorate in Deep South states from South Carolina to Louisiana.

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# Carson wants mosques, schools, supermarkets watched closely

KIMBERLY PIERCEALL

Associated Press

PAHRUMP, Nevada (AP)

— Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said Monday mosques, schools, supermarkets, car repair shops and “any place where radicalization is going on” should be monitored in light of terrorist threats.

Campaigning in Nevada, the retired neurosurgeon addressed the need for increased surveillance of people in the United States during an appearance about an hour west of Las Vegas.

“I would say we use our intelligence and we monitor anything: our mosques, a church, a museum, a supermarket,” he said, later adding that monitoring would come after multiple reports or indications of radical activity. “We live in a very different time right

now.”

National security has become a focus in the presidential race over the last week after terrorists launched a series of deadly attacks in Paris.

Carson on Monday also backed up claims by Republican rival Donald Trump, who has repeatedly charged that he saw video footage of thousands of Muslims in New Jersey cheering the Sept. 11 attacks. The claim has been refuted by local officials as untrue. But asked Monday if he had seen footage of cheering Muslims in New Jersey, Carson said he had seen it on the news.

“There are going to be people that respond inappropriately,” he said, adding that characterizing all Muslims as “bad people” because of the alleged reaction would be a stretch. □

## US State Department issues travel warning following terrorist attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department is alerting Americans to the possible risks of travel due to increased terrorist threats around the world.

A travel alert issued on Monday says current information suggests that Islamic State militants, al-Qaida, Boko Haram and other terrorist groups continue to plan attacks in multiple regions. U.S. authorities say the likelihood of terror attacks will continue as mem-

bers of IS return from Syria and Iraq, and others not affiliated with terror groups engage in violence on their own. Extremists have attacked in France, Nigeria, Denmark, Turkey and Mali and IS has claimed responsibility for bombing a Russian airliner in Egypt. U.S. citizens are advised to be vigilant in public places and on transportation and avoid large crowds, including holiday events or festivals. □

## Detroit, Austin welcome Syria refugees in spite of governors

JEFF KAROUB

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The mayors of Detroit and Austin are welcoming Syrian refugees despite pushback by their states’ Republican governors following the deadly attacks in Paris.


Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan says his city can support 50 Syrian families annually for the next three years. Mayor Steve Adler says Austin has accepted three Syrian refugees in the past two years and another is coming.

The Democrats spoke during a White House-arranged conference call Monday, a week after numerous Republican governors spoke out against federal refugee policies. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has instructed refugee-resettling organizations to stop helping Syrians. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who initially lobbied for refugees, has urged a pause in the resettlement program until security concerns are addressed. □



Republican presidential candidate, Dr. Ben Carson speaks at a rally, Monday, Nov. 23, 2015, in Pahrump, Nev. Carson attended a briefing on Yucca Mountain and federal lands at the Nye County commissioner’s office in Pahrump before holding the rally.

(AP Photo/John Locher)



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## Texas woman seeks return of film showing JFK assassination

**DAVID WARREN**  
**Associated Press**

**DALLAS (AP)** — A Texas woman said Monday that she's suing a federal agency to force the return of a film shot by her grandfather that shows a portion of the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Gayle Nix Jackson, who lives in the Fort Worth area, is seeking \$10 million in compensation for the film

shot by Orville Nix on Nov. 22, 1963. In the days after the killing, he gave the film to the UPI news agency with the understanding that after 25 years it would be returned to the family. However, it was obtained by the Warren Commission and another federal panel that investigated the shooting and assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

It's not clear where the original copy may be but Nix Jackson believes it's in the possession of the National Archives and Records Administration because most materials that were part of the federal inquiry were forwarded to the NARA. The lawsuit says the agency has told Nix Jackson it does not have it. An agency spokeswoman declined to comment Monday.

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza says a film shot by Abraham Zapruder has greater historical value because it shows all of the shooting, as opposed to Nix's film and two others that capture part of the assassination. Nix Jackson said her grandfather's film was shot from Dealey Plaza. She said it shows Zapruder across the street and the grassy knoll

from where some witnesses thought they heard at least one shot fired. It's incomprehensible that authorities would lose "an important piece of historical evidence," said Nix Jackson, whose lawsuit was filed Saturday in federal court in Washington, D.C. "I can understand little clerical issues," she said. "I don't understand the loss of evidence like this." □

## Police investigate New Orleans shooting that wounded 17



Paramedics with New Orleans EMS remove a person from the scene following a shooting in New Orleans' 9th Ward on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015. Police spokesman Tyler Gamble says police were on their way to break up a big crowd when gunfire erupted at Bunny Friend Park.

(Michael DeMocker/NOLA.com The Times-Picayune via AP)

**J. MCCONNAUGHEY**  
**R. SANTANA**

**Associated Press**

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Authorities are still trying to determine what touched off a shootout between two groups of gunmen that wounded 17 people in a crowded New Orleans park, a police spokesman said Monday. The mayor called on witnesses to come forward, but by late Monday morning nobody had offered either video of the shootout or descriptions or IDs of the gunmen, officer Frank Robertson said. None of the injuries is believed to be life-threatening. Robertson did not know how many people were hospitalized or any

details such as their ages. Hundreds of people were gathered Sunday evening at Bunny Friend Playground — most for a block party and some for the filming of a music video — when two groups in the crowd opened fire on each other, police said. Police were on their way to break up a big crowd there when gunfire erupted at the park in the city's 9th Ward, the police said in a statement. Mayor Mitch Landrieu, speaking at a news conference aired on WWL-TV, called on people who were in the park to come forward with information. Police have also asked people with any video of the shooting to bring it to police. □

## Venue owners appeal fine for denying lesbian couple wedding

**MICHAEL HILL**  
**Associated Press**

**ALBANY, New York (AP)** — Owners of a wedding venue who were fined \$13,000 for violating New York state's anti-discrimination law argued Monday that they should be legally allowed to follow their Christian faith. The own-

ers of Liberty Ridge Farm north of Albany refused to host the 2013 wedding of Melisa and Jennie McCarthy, citing their own religious beliefs. Now the business, owned by Robert and Cynthia Gifford, is appealing a ruling from the state's Division of Human Rights that it violated New

York law and is seeking to have the fine reversed. "It would violate the Giffords' faith to facilitate this union," attorney Caleb Dalton told a five-judge panel of the Appellate Division of state Supreme Court. New York state legalized same-sex marriage in 2011, and the U.S. Supreme Court

ruled this year that it's a right under the U.S. Constitution. But Dalton, counsel for the Alliance Defending Freedom, said the Giffords' faith does not allow them to participate in a marriage that is not between one man and one woman. Mariko Hirose, an attorney with the New York Civil Lib-

erties Union, said the McCarthys, who now live in the New York City area, were "heartbroken" when they were turned away from the Giffords' farm. Hirose and a lawyer for the human rights division argued that the business cannot be exempted from having to follow anti-discrimination laws. □

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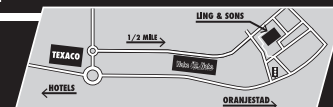
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## US Financial Front:

# Home sales slip in October as high prices weigh on buyers

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Fewer Americans bought homes in October, a sign that rising home values may be pushing more would-be buyers to the real estate market's sidelines.

The National Association of Realtors said Monday that sales of existing homes fell 3.4 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.36 million.

The decline comes after strong growth in home-buying for much of 2015, bolstered by steady job gains and low mortgage rates. Home purchases have advanced 3.9 percent from a year ago, even as buyers have fewer choices because the number of listings on the market has dropped 4.5 percent. But last month suggested the start of a reflexive backlash after the strong gains in home-buying. The additional sales have spawned sharp price increases that have outpaced wage growth and left some would-be buyers out of the market.

The October sales decrease indicates "the market is treading water," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Yet other economists anticipate sales growth to return because of the underlying health of the broader economy.

"Despite the setback, home sales should resume higher in the face of rising rents, good job growth, improved consumer confidence and still-low mortgage rates," said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

The median home sales price was \$219,600 in Octo-

ber, a 5.8 percent annual increase. Sales fell sharply in the West and South where prices have risen at the fastest rates this year. Purchases declined 8.7 percent in the West and 3.2 percent in the South, while dipping 0.8 percent in the Midwest and staying unchanged in the Northeast on a seasonally adjusted basis.

The 5 percent unemployment rate has helped coax traditional buyers into the market, supplanting the investors who bought foreclosed properties for all-cash in the aftermath of the Great Recession. Current homeowners seeking an upgrade or chance to downsize appear to have accounted for much of this year's sales gains, as first-time buyers accounted for 31 percent of sales in October. First-time buyers have historically made up 40 percent of all sales.

Tight inventories are curbing enthusiasm among some homebuyers. Just 4.8 months' supply of homes is available, well below the 6 months associated with a balanced market.

The limited supplies and greater demand fueled higher home values. Home prices have appreciated at more than double the gains in average hourly earnings, requiring buyers to set aside more savings for a down payment or bid more fiercely for the most desirable properties.

Low mortgage rates have offset some of the pain from those price gains. But rates have started to rise ahead of a December Federal Reserve meeting, where Fed officials are expected to raise short-term rates for the first time in nearly a decade. □



A home is for sale in Coral Gables, Fla. Fewer Americans bought homes in October, a sign that rising home values may be pushing more would-be buyers to the real estate market's sidelines, based on information released Monday, Nov. 23, 2015, by the National Association of Realtors.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

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## Citing “serious and imminent” threat, Brussels extends high alert

RAF CASERT  
ELAINE GANLEY  
Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Citing a “serious and imminent” threat of attack, Belgium’s prime minister announced Monday that Brussels will remain at the highest alert level for at least another week, maintaining security measures that have severely disrupted normal life in the capital.

In France, police said an explosive vest without a detonator was found by a street cleaner in a pile of rubble in the southern Paris suburb of Montrouge and was being analyzed by investigators. A police official said the vest contained bolts and the same type of explosives as those used in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks that claimed 130 lives and left hundreds wounded. The device was found Monday in the same area where a cellphone belonging to fugitive suspect

Salah Abdeslam was pinpointed by geolocation on the day of the Paris attacks, two police officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation. Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said Brussels, which houses the headquarters of the European Union and NATO, faced a “serious and imminent” threat that required keeping the city at the highest alert level, while the rest of the country would stay at the second-highest level. Belgium’s crisis center said the alert level would only change if a significant breakthrough warranted it. The increased security measures in the wake of the Nov. 13 massacre in Paris have virtually shut down the Belgian capital, with the subway system, many shops and schools remaining shut on Monday. Michel said that despite the



A woman looks at a map as Belgian Army soldiers patrol in the historic Grand Place in the center of Brussels on Monday, Nov. 23, 2015. Citing a “serious and imminent” threat of attack, Belgium’s prime minister announced Monday that Brussels will remain at the highest alert level for at least another week.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

continued high alert level, schools would reopen on Wednesday, with parts of

the subway system beginning to operate the same day. He did not say when the system would be completely online again.

“We are very alert and call for caution,” Michel said. “The potential targets remain the same; shopping centers and shopping streets and public transport.”

“We want to return to a normal way of life as quickly as possible,” he added. The unprecedented security measures come as authorities hunt for one or more suspected extremists, including Abdeslam.

Belgian authorities have not announced any details of their investigation into potential attacks nor have they released any information about four suspects who have been arrested and charged with terrorism-related offenses. These include one suspect who was arrested as part of a sweep that saw 21 people detained since Sunday night. Fifteen have since been released.

Earlier Monday, British Prime Minister David Cameron said during a visit to Paris that he would seek parliamentary approval for the U.K. to join the airstrikes begun carried out by the U.S., France, Russia and other nations in the region

against the Islamic State extremists in Syria.

Cameron and French President Francois Hollande paid a visit to the Bataclan concert hall, which saw the worst of the carnage. Seeking a unified strategy on Syria, Hollande meets Tuesday with President Barack Obama and with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday, before traveling to Moscow on Thursday to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. France’s Defense Ministry said it had launched its first airstrikes from the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, bombing IS targets in the Iraqi cities of Ramadi and Mosul in a seven-hour operation. The ministry said four Rafale fighter jets were sent from the carrier Monday afternoon. France has already carried out strikes against IS targets in Syria. Britain has been carrying out airstrikes in Iraq, and Cameron has long wanted an expanded mandate to include targets in Syria. But his government had been reluctant to suggest a parliamentary vote until it could be certain of winning it.

A series of raids in Belgium began late Sunday, capping a tense weekend that saw hundreds of troops patrolling streets. □



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# Russia's Putin in Iran for talks focusing on Syria



Iran President Hassan Rouhani, right, shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin prior to attending the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, GECF, summit meeting in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Nov. 23, 2015.

(Sergei Guneyev/Sputnik, Kremlin Pool/AP)

V. ISACHENKOV  
**Associated Press**  
**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Russia's President Vladimir Putin visited Tehran on Monday for talks with Iranian leaders that focused on the Syrian crisis and an international peace plan intended to end the conflict. During his meeting with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, both Putin and the top cleric warned against any effort to impose a political settlement on Syria. "No one from the outside can and should enforce models of government on the Syrian people and determine who should be in charge," Putin said. "Only the Syrian people should decide that." Putin underlined that stance after a later meeting with President Hassan Rouhani. "There is no other way to reach a long-term settlement of the Syrian problem except through political talks," he said. Khamenei accused the United States and its allies of trying "to achieve through diplomacy and

at the negotiating table the goals they could not achieve by military means in Syria." "This must be prevented through wisdom and active interaction," Khamenei told Putin at the start of their meeting that lasted more than an hour and a half. Putin's visit comes as Russia, the United States, France and others are talking about possible joint action against the Islamic State group following the terror attacks in Paris and the downing of a Russian passenger jet in Egypt — both attacks claimed by IS. Putin's trip also comes on the heels of agreement on an incomplete peace plan that calls for talks between Syrian President Bashar Assad and his foes. Moscow and Tehran have been the key backers of Assad throughout his nation's civil war, which has killed over 250,000 people and turned millions into refugees. Russia has shielded Syria from international sanctions, and on Sept. 30 it

launched an air campaign against the Islamic State group and other insurgents, while Tehran has sent military advisers to shore up Assad. Putin, on a one-day visit to attend a gas exporting nations' summit, praised Iran for its support of Russia's operation in Syria. "All that has been done in coordination with our Iranian partners and without their help it would have been impossible," he said. "While some countries only imitate action in the fight

against terrorism, our two countries have shown how to deal with the issue in a serious way," said Rouhani. The peace plan put forward by 17 nations a day after the horrific Paris attacks sets a Jan. 1 deadline for the start of negotiations between Assad and the Syrian opposition. "The Syrian crisis must and will be decided by political means," Putin said during a meeting with his Turkmen counterpart, President Gurbanguli Berdimukhamedov, on the sidelines of

the gas summit. The Turkmen leader voiced uneasiness about Russia using the Caspian Sea for some of the strikes on Syria, but Putin said using the Caspian would continue "for as long as we see necessary to punish the culprits" behind the plane attack. The proposal, which seems to draw heavily on a recently circulated Russian initiative, states that "free and fair elections" would be held according to a new constitution within 18 months. □

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## Greece cleared to get next batch of bailout loans

D. GATOPOULOS

P. PYLAS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

— Greece was formally cleared Monday to get the next batch of bailout loans due from its third financial rescue after the cash-strapped country implemented a series of economic reform measures that European creditors had demanded.

The country will get a 2 billion-euro (\$2.1 billion) payment on Tuesday, money that will be used to meet debt service commitments, clear arrears and co-fund projects with the European Union.

The crippled Greek banks, which are reeling from limits on money transfers and another likely recession, can also soon start claiming money from a separate 10 billion-euro pot of money available.

The formal approval came after Greece's parliament last week backed new austerity measures, including higher taxes on wine and road use as well as more limited protection for distressed mortgage holders. Opposition to the latest measures, however, cut the leftwing government's majority in parliament from



**Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, right, attends a parliamentary session in Athens. Greece was formally cleared Monday to get the next batch of bailout loans due from its third financial rescue.** (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

five seats to three.

The Greek government, led by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, still faces a laundry list of reforms to unlock further funds from the three-year bailout, which was agreed in the summer. Topping the next list is a further overhaul of the national pension system.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the eurozone's top official told reporters in Brussels at the conclusion of a meeting of the bloc's 19 finance

ministers that the Greek government has indicated that it will be implement a second set of milestones by mid-December. Any delaying tactics, he said, would "cause a lot of unnecessary, unwanted concerns inside and outside Greece."

Dijsselbloem also said the IMF was willing to extend its involvement in the Greek bailout. It's been a partner since Greece first got bailed out in May 2010

but its current involvement ends early next year.

The IMF, he said, wants Greece to implement all the so-called milestones, including pension reforms, and more budget measures to make sure that the Greek budget remains on track. The IMF has also indicated it wants Greece's debt burden to be reduced and Dijsselbloem confirmed that discussions on that should pick up in earnest early next year. □

## Blast at Japan's controversial war shrine 'foul play'

YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP)

— An explosion Monday damaged a public restroom at a controversial shrine in Tokyo that honors Japanese war dead, with police suspecting foul play. No one was injured.

The Yasukuni shrine, which honors 2.5 million Japanese war dead, including executed war criminals, has been the target of criticism from China and South Korea, which suffered from Japan's World War II atrocities and aggression.

Tokyo police said in a statement that they received a call about an explosion and smoke at Yasukuni. They said they suspected a "guerrilla" attack, implying some kind of subversive activity, but declined to elaborate.

Firefighters were also called to the scene and found the ceiling and walls of the restroom had been damaged, said an official at the Tokyo Fire Department, who spoke on condition of anonymity. But the fire was out by the time they arrived.

It was unclear what caused the explosion, but a timing device and wirings were found near the spot of the explosion, according to Kyodo News service. Police will be reviewing footage on security cameras for clues, TBS TV news said. Footage on TV Asahi showed a bomb squad in protective gear entering the shrine premises.

The person in charge of media at Yasukuni was not immediately available for comment.

The shrine is a focal point for lingering tensions with Japan's neighbors over the country's aggression before and during World War II. □

## US military helicopter crashes in S.Korea, killing 2

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— A U.S. military helicopter crashed in South Korea during a routine training mission Monday, killing both pilots on board, the U.S. Army and South Korean police said. The AH-64 Apache helicopter crashed on a road in Wonju, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) east of Seoul, a Wonju police officer said

on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media about the accident.

Two bodies recovered from the helicopter were severely damaged and officials couldn't immediately confirm their identities, the officer said. He said there were no reports of casualties on the ground. The U.S. Army in South Korea later confirmed the crash, saying the

cause of the accident was under investigation.


"We offer our heartfelt prayers and condolences to the families of the soldiers involved in this tragic incident," Lt. Col. Mark Gillespie, deputy commander of 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, said in a U.S. Army statement. It said the identities of the two pilots will be withheld pending notification of next of kin. South Ko-

rea's Yonhap news agency cited unidentified officials as saying the helicopter may have hit high-voltage power lines or a nearby steel tower because wires were found near the crashed aircraft and the upper part of the tower was damaged. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as deterrence against possible aggression from North Korea. □

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## Liberia seeks US help to determine cause of new Ebola cases

J. LAYLEH

Associated Press

Press

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) —

Two experts from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are set to travel to Liberia to try to determine the cause of new Ebola cases confirmed last week, more than two months after the country had been declared free of Ebola transmission for a second time, a Liberian health official said Monday.

Liberia requested U.S. assistance after three new cases were reported on Friday, said Dr. Francis Kateh, the country's chief medical

officer and acting head of Liberia's Ebola Case Management System. The first of the latest patients is a boy from the capital, Monrovia, who officials initially said was 10 but now say is 15. The boy's father and brother also have tested positive for Ebola and have been taken to the same treatment center along with his mother and two siblings.

More than 150 people have been identified as potentially at risk of contracting the disease in connection with the new cluster of cases, including about a dozen health-



A unidentified family member, right, of a 10-year old boy that contracted Ebola, has her temperature measured by a health worker before entering the Ebola clinic where the child is being treated on the outskirts of Monrovia, Liberia. Health authorities are reporting one confirmed Ebola case, a 10-year boy who is currently being attended to at the treatment center on the outskirts of Monrovia, the capital. (AP Photo/ Abbas Dulleh)

care workers "who are at high risk and under precautionary observation," the health ministry said in a statement.

Liberia has recorded more

than 4,800 deaths during the worst Ebola outbreak in history, according to the World Health Organization. More than 11,300 deaths have been recorded for

the entire outbreak, which was concentrated in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, according to WHO. The first cases were confirmed in March 2014.

Liberia was first declared Ebola-free on May 9, but new cases emerged in June resulting in two deaths. WHO declared the country Ebola-free again on Sept. 3.

The new cases in Liberia were announced just days after Guinea, the country where the epidemic started, said it had no more Ebola patients and was beginning a 42-day countdown toward being declared free of Ebola transmission. Guinea had been the last country with any cases after Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free on Nov. 7. □

## Kenya president Kenyatta declares corruption national security threat

TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

Kenya's president on Monday declared corruption a national security threat and he presented a raft of measures to fight the graft that is endemic in East Africa's largest economy.

"I believe that corruption is a standing threat to our national security," President Uhuru Kenyatta said in televised remarks. "The bribe accepted by an official can lead to successful terrorist attacks that kill Kenyans. It can let a criminal off the hook for them to return to crime and harming Kenyans."

The president's announcement was received with skepticism by analysts.

"This president has made the best speeches about fighting corruption but his credibility is very low," said John Githongo, a former Kenyan government adviser who exposed millions of dollars in government corruption in the previous regime.

"Going by the past speech-

es nobody should hold their breath (for change) lest they faint," Githongo said.

Kenyatta said among the measures to be taken against graft include the vetting of customs and revenue officers, whom the government believes are denying the country revenue by taking bribes to overlook individuals' and institutions' tax obligations. The country's spy agency, the National Intelligence Service, has also been ordered to help track down the corrupt, Kenyatta said. Banks that break anti-money-laundering laws and regulations will, at a minimum, lose their banking licenses, Kenyatta said, and directors and senior officials at those banks will also be held culpable for abetting money laundering. Kenyatta's nearly three-year-old regime has come under heavy criticism for inaction against graft which American Ambassador to Kenya Robert Godec earlier this month described as a crisis. □

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ARUBA WINE & SPIRITS

## Argentina: President-elect Macri inherits large economic woes



Argentina's President elect Mauricio Macri speaks during a press conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Monday, Nov. 23, 2015. Macri won a runoff election against ruling party candidate Daniel Scioli, putting an end to the era of President Cristina Fernandez, who along with her late husband dominated the country's politics for 12 years. (AP Photo/Ricardo Mazalan)

**PETER PRENGAMAN**  
Associated Press

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** — Argentine President-elect Mauricio Macri on Monday prepared to confront myriad problems in Latin America's third largest economy, including soaring prices and high government spending that are a legacy of outgoing President Cristina Fernandez.

Macri, fresh off his historic election win late Sunday, began laying out how he would achieve some of the promises that helped him put an end to 12 years of "Kirchnerismo," a movement aligned with the poor led by Fernandez and her late husband and predecessor, Nestor Kirchner.

Macri, the outgoing mayor of Buenos Aires who will assume the presidency Dec. 10, said a key task is just spelling out the true nature of problems such as 30 per-

cent inflation and government spending that many private economists warn is not sustainable.

"Argentina today doesn't have credible information on the economy," said Macri, criticizing the Fernandez administration for widely discredited statistics on everything from inflation to poverty rates. "We need to know the real state of public accounts."

Macri said that instead of a single economy minister, he would build a cabinet with six ministers assigned to specific areas of the economy.

Such a structure is in line with Macri's technocratic approach, which emphasizes decisions based on data analysis and efficiency over style. It also cuts a sharp contrast with Economic Minister Axel Kicillof, a top official in the Fernandez administration who wielded enormous power

over key policies, such as the decision not to negotiate with a group of creditors in the U.S. that took Argentina to court in New York and won.

Macri reiterated his promise to lift unpopular restrictions on buying U.S. dollars and thus eliminate a booming black market for foreign currencies that creates distortions in the economy. He said the restrictions were an error that impeded growth, but did not provide details on his next steps to address the system.

Lifting restrictions would likely lead to a sharp devaluation of the Argentine peso, which officially trades at 9.5 to the U.S. dollar but on the black market is around 16 pesos.

With foreign reserves around \$26 billion, low for such a large economy, Macri's administration would need a quick infu-

sion of dollars to keep the government afloat and meet the demand of Argentines looking to trade their pesos.

That could come from many different international economic bodies, but ultimately would require some fast reforms to signal that structural changes to the economy are forthcoming.

Macri will also likely encounter fierce resistance in Congress, where he doesn't have majorities in either chamber. The make-up of Congress, filled with many Fernandez loyalists including her son, is particularly important for the long-standing debt spat with a group of creditors in the U.S. By law, Congress has to approve any measures regarding the country's debt. The Fernandez administration refused to negotiate despite repeated rulings by a U.S. federal court judge against Argentina, a stance that ultimately kept the South American nation from accessing international credit markets. The close finish in Sunday's historic runoff — Macri got 51.4 percent of the vote compared to 48.6 percent for Scioli — will embolden ruling party stalwarts to question his moves. "It was practically a tie," said Fernandez's Cabinet chief Anibal Fernandez, adding that the ruling party "will be preparing to return to power." Macri's own background and the bruising campaign could feed into Argentina's political polarization after more than a decade of left-leaning government. He hails from one of the country's most prominent families and rose to fame as president of the popular Boca Juniors soccer club. □

## LATIN BRIEFS

### Guyana will limit access to waterfall following suicides

**GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)** — Authorities in the South American country of Guyana have temporarily limited access to the popular Kaieteur Falls following several suicides. Tourism Minister Catherine Hughes said Monday that visitors will not be able to access the edge of the 741-foot (226-meter) waterfall. She said authorities are trying to find the body of a Guyanese woman who jumped to her death on Saturday after she bolted from a tour. It is the second suicide at the falls in three months. The suicide prompted authorities to cancel tours over the weekend. Kaieteur Falls is considered one of the most powerful waterfalls in the world. It is located in a remote region in central Guyana. □

### Brazil official says govt. must expand anti-terror efforts

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — A top Brazilian official says the Olympic host country must redouble its anti-terror efforts in light of the Paris attacks. Cabinet minister Ricardo Berzoini says "there is no limit to our worry," adding, "We must redouble our efforts." Berzoini's remarks to reporters during a conference on terrorism Monday were quoted by Globo television network's G1 web portal. Brazil has not historically been a target of international terrorist groups, but Berzoini said it "must have the same worry" as frequently targeted nations because Rio de Janeiro plays host to the Olympics next August. □





## Celebrating Thanksgiving with Fun in the Sun on Aruba: The Giannopoulos, Vincenti, LeMire and Babigian Families are Back!

**PALM BEACH** - The Giannopoulos, Vincenti, LeMire and Babigian families are annual Thanksgiving visitors to Aruba. They all own timeshare at the Marriott Resorts. As they put it, Aruba has been their 'second home' for many years.

Last year they sent some fun photos to us at the Aruba Today - their favorite English newspaper on Aruba - featuring the families surrounding the awesome 'Sand Turkey' and 'Sand Snowman' they made on the beach in front of the Marriott Surf Club!

This year we received pictures of the families with the fabulous 'Sand Shark' they created this week on the beach in front of the Marriott Surf Club.

The sand sculpture has created quite a stir, as everyone walking down the beach is stopping to lay down in the lounge chair perfectly placed in the mouth of the shark to snap a picture! Almost guaran-



teed to be the only shark anyone will see this week on Aruba! Thanks for sharing your Aruba Moments with us,

families Giannopoulos, Vincenti, LeMire and Babigian! We wish you many happy returns to our island! ☐



Above and Below: The Sand Turkey and Sand Snowman the families created together on Aruba in 2014.





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**PALM BEACH** - This is the final week to see the best show in Aruba, until it returns in February.

"Aruba Ray's Comedy" features some of the funniest American standup comedians in a terrific 90-minute show at the Marriott Resort.

This past month has been full of amazing performers, with Ray Ellin proving once again why he is a consummate and hilarious host, with the uncanny ability to work any crowd.

Advance tickets are suggested, and are available at [www.ArubaComedy.com](http://www.ArubaComedy.com). Tickets can also be purchased at the Amsterdam Ballroom showroom door at 730pm, subject to



availability.

This wonderful show is a great way to spend a night out. The comedians are truly some of the best from the United States, and perform in a relaxed, intimate setting at the Marriott. The Marriott has something unique in Aruba with Ray Ellin's show; it has proven time and again to be entertainment at its best.

As a bonus, there is an option to purchase a four-hour premium open bar, and each attendee receives free slot cash for the Marriott Stellaris Casino. Comedians scheduled to ap-



pear during this final week are Mike Vecchione from 'Conan' and 'The Tonight Show,' and Brian Scott McFadden from 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' and 'The Late Show with David Letterman.'

Ray Ellin hosts and produces the shows. Considered by his peers to be the best host in NYC, Ray is known as "Aruba Ray" because of his passion for Aruba. Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for almost four years, and produces and hosts these incredible comedy shows on the island. He is a popular comedian in



New York, and has brought his talent and colleagues to Aruba. Ray has appeared on many television programs; he is the host of the new Gong Show Live, a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He also hosted the popular talk show Late Net, and hosted the television shows The Movie Loft, Brain Fuel, and New York Now. He also produced and directed the very successful film The Latin Legends of Comedy, distributed by 20th Century Fox. Ray co-created and is co-starring in the new television show Cellar.

The shows are at 830pm, every night, from now until November 28th, in the Amsterdam Ballroom at the Marriott Resort, down the hall from the casino. Doors open at 8pm.

It is suggested to arrive early - seating is first come first serve. The showroom is intimate - it is suggested you purchase tickets in advance at [www.ArubaComedy.com](http://www.ArubaComedy.com). You can also purchase tickets (subject to availability!) at the Amsterdam Ballroom showroom door at 730pm. The tickets are \$36. And each Comedy Ticket gives every audience member free slot cash in the Stellaris Casino at the Marriott (ID required!). And each Comedy Ticket will also provide a 20% discount to the Aruba La Vista buffet. Plus, audience members can purchase an OPTIONAL four hour premium open bar for only \$22! The premium open bar continues after the show in the casino until midnight. □



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"We started small, guiding the tours ourselves, and with the goal of sharing what we love most about our island with guests," explains Sharla. "Nowadays, we are still very much involved, managing the company and making sure the feeling of being part of the family is intrinsic to each tour."

What sets us apart is that our tours are made up of small groups so that the safari stays fun and personalized, giving our Tour Guides the flexibility to honor special requests on each tour and that means more value for your money."

Guests who take part in any one of ABC Tours options quickly learn that this is not just another island tour. Each tour is filled with interesting information, and presented by enthusiastic guides, whose high energy helps provide for

both excitement and fun. The choice of stops is also unique, with ABC Tours taking guests past the island's most breathtaking sceneries, and on to discover the hidden beauty of secluded beaches and dramatic rock formations as well as to well-known sites such as Baby Beach and the Natural Pool.

To take even greater pleasure in the off-road experience, guests also have the opportunity to drive one of our 4x4 Land Rovers for a pure 4-wheel fun.

All of ABC Tours' Land Rovers are specially equipped vehicles, with comfortable seats, that easily traverse island roads, and safely deliver you to each stop.

Thrill seekers also have the option to cliff jump at The Natural Pool, only available on selected tours at ABC.

The unique ABC Tours experience extends to the menu, with a home-cooked recipe for lunch or dinner as a part of each tour. Traditional meals are provided by Waka Waka restaurant, which uses secret, family recipes, passed down through four generations and provided by Sharla's own grandmother. The restaurant provides a true taste of Aruba, whether enjoying a meal after an unforgettable tour or simply stopping by, at any time, to try out any one of "Machi (Grandma) Betty's" delicious offerings, from delectable appetizers to scrumptious desserts. □



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# Matthew's Beachside Restaurant Is Ready to Celebrate Thanksgiving and The Holiday Season!

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on the island. At Matthew's we want to go out of our way to make your experience a truly memorable one. Besides the fantastic view and the great food, service is the most important thing. Matthew's offers a variety of activities that make it worth visiting. In addition to full breakfast, lunch and dinner menus, we offer all- you-can-eat spare ribs on Tuesdays, Martini night and Karaoke on Wednesdays, Italian night on Thursdays and of course, our daily happy hours 3 times in a day from noon – 1pm, 4-6pm featuring live music at the bar and 9-10 pm. If

you are a sports fan, three flat-screen TVs at the bar are always tuned in to the most exciting events. Feel free to visit us any time, to enjoy the food, the ambience and the spectacular view. Come to celebrate with us. For reservation call 588-7300 special menus only available with reservation. [www.matthews-aruba.com](http://www.matthews-aruba.com).

Matthew's is open daily for Breakfast 7:30am - 11:00am, Lunch 11:00am - 5:00pm, and Dinner 5:00pm - 10:00pm.

Matthew's Beachside Restaurant is located on the Beach at Casa del Mar Beach Resort. □

## Thanksgiving MENU

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**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently Jonathan Boekhoudt from Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to present Mr. John and Mrs. Ellen Delaney with the "Goodwill Ambassador Certificate". The honorary symbol is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation for 20 consecutive visits to Aruba. The ceremony was held at the Paradise Beach Villas. John and Ellen come from New Jersey and love Aruba especially for great weather, relaxation and rejuvenation. □

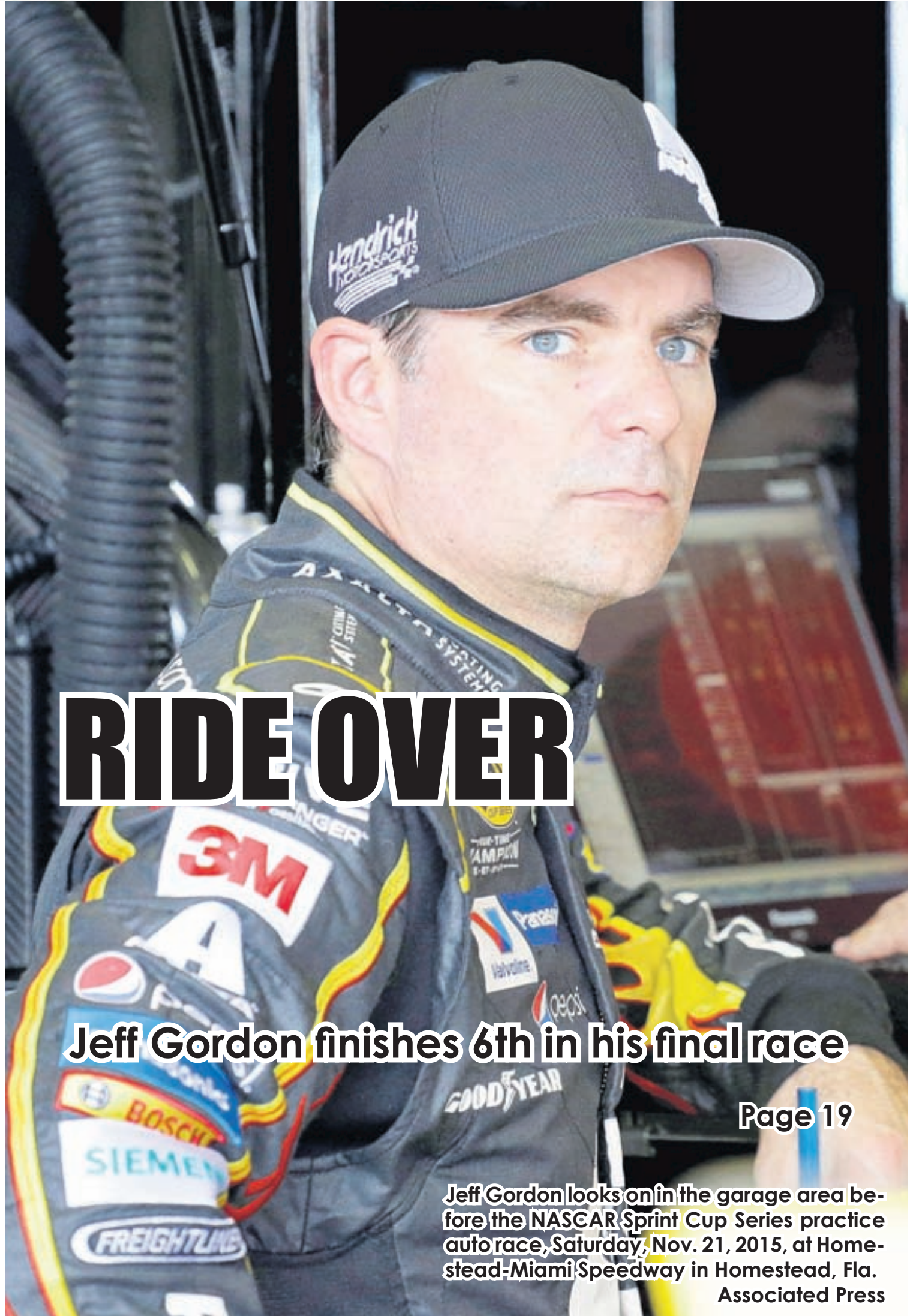




In this Sept. 19, 2015, file photo, Toronto FC's Sebastian Giovinco celebrates after scoring his team's second goal against the Colorado Rapids during the first half of the MLS soccer game in Toronto. Associated Press

## Toronto's Sebastian Giovinco wins MLS Newcomer of Year award

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Toronto forward Sebastian Giovinco has been voted Major League Soccer's Newcomer of the Year. The 28-year-old forward joined the team in January from Juventus and was ineligible for Rookie of the Year consideration because of his previous professional experience. Giovinco scored 22 goals, tied with Columbus' Kei Kamara for the league lead. Giovinco won the Golden Boot based on his league-leading 16 assists. MLS said Monday that Giovinco received 208 percent of combined team, media and player votes, which total 300 percent. Montreal forward Didier Drogba, who made his MLS debut in late August, was second with 32 percent and New York Red Bulls forward Mike Grella was third with 14 percent. □



## RIDE OVER

**Jeff Gordon finishes 6th in his final race**

Page 19

Jeff Gordon looks on in the garage area before the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series practice auto race, Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015, at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla.

Associated Press





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## Columbus, Portland win first legs in MLS playoffs



FC Dallas goalkeeper Jesse Gonzalez reaches for a save during the second half of the first leg of the MLS soccer Western Conference championship against the Portland Timbers in Portland, Ore., Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015. Portland won 3-1. **Associated Press**

### The Associated Press

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Columbus' Justin Meram scored after just nine seconds and the Crew went on to beat the New York Red Bulls 2-0 on Sunday in the first leg of the Major League Soccer Eastern Conference finals. The fastest goal in MLS playoff history put the Crew in a strong position to advance to the league decider. In the Western Conference finals first leg, Portland recorded a 3-1 win at home against Dallas. Meram's goal came from a long ball forward. Kei Kamara had a glancing header, Ethan Finlay got to the ball but lost control between two defenders and Iraq international Meram was in the right spot to

knock in the loose ball. New York kept the deficit to one goal and in an advantageous position going into their home leg, until Kamara scored in the 85th minute. Cedrick used individual skill to beat three defenders in the box and sent a difficult-angled shot off the hand of goalkeeper Luis Robles. Kamara was left alone at the far post for an easy tap in. It was the first time the Red Bulls had been held scoreless since May 24. The second game is next Sunday in Harrison, New Jersey. Portland's Liam Ridgewell, Dairon Asprilla and Nat Borchers all scored as the Timbers beat Dallas 3-1. With a 2-0 deficit, David Texeira scored in the 61st minute to narrow it for Dal-

las, the West's top seed in the playoffs. But Borchers added a goal for Portland at the 90-minute mark. Ridgewell, the former Aston Villa, Birmingham and West Bromwich Albion defender, barreled in on a diving goalkeeper for his first goal of the season in the 23rd minute. Asprilla's long shot came from outside the penalty area, and sailed beyond the keeper's reach. Dallas scored what could prove to be an important away goal when David Texeira chipped in a shot in the 61st minute, moments after Ridgewell had limped off injured. Borchers' goal came in stoppage time when a number of Timbers scrambled to push in Paparatto's header. □



Roger Federer of Switzerland waits for the trophy ceremony after losing to Novak Djokovic of Serbia in their ATP World Tour Finals final tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Sunday Nov. 22, 2015. **Associated Press**

## For 2016 season, Federer won't look past Australian Open

### MATTIAS KAREN

AP Sports Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — The Olympic tennis tournament remains the only big singles title Roger Federer has yet to add to his collection. Looking ahead to next season, though, it's not the Rio de Janeiro Games that are at the top of his mind. "It's not my No. 1 priority. It starts with the Australian Open, which is just around the corner," Federer said Sunday after losing to Novak Djokovic in the title match at the ATP finals. "That's what I see next. Then once Australia's over, that's when I look more towards the future." Rio should — surely — be the last chance the 34-year-old Federer gets to collect that elusive singles gold medal. He won doubles gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics with Stan Wawrinka, but lost the singles final to Andy Mur-

ray at the London Games in 2012, shortly after beating the Briton for his seventh Wimbledon title on the same Centre Court at the All England Club. He'll be less familiar with the surroundings in Rio, although he remembers fondly his trip to Brazil to play exhibition matches in 2012. "I don't know what the crowd support is going to be like (in Rio). I had a blast in Sao Paulo, the three matches I played there. All of South America was fantastic, to be honest," Federer said. "For me to have done that trip, it was the trip of a lifetime. It was one of my favorite 10 days of my life if I just talk about tennis. It was really that cool." Federer lost 6-3, 6-4 to Djokovic on Sunday at the O2 Arena, having also been defeated by the top-ranked Serb in the Wimbledon and U.S. Open finals this year. □



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## End of rainbow: Gordon finishes 6th in final NASCAR race

MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer

**HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP)** — Jeff Gordon climbed out of his race car and stepped into the waiting arms of team owner Rick Hendrick. They shared a long embrace and some words of encouragement. Gordon handed Hendrick his helmet, kissed his wife and hugged his two kids before getting mobbed by fans. Someone in the crowd screamed "You're still the man!"

Just not the champion. Gordon failed to add a fairytale finish to his storied career Sunday, finishing sixth in the NASCAR season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

"I'm a little disappointed we weren't more of a threat in the championship," said Gordon, a four-time champion who last won it all in 2001. "Beyond that, it's absolutely been a dream come true."

Kyle Busch won the race and his first Sprint Cup championship. Kevin Harvick finished second in the Chase playoffs, followed by Gordon and Martin Truex Jr. Those four were the only ones remaining in the hunt for the championship.

"I knew when those guys got by me, I just didn't have what they had," Gordon said about Busch and Harvick.

Busch, who missed the first 11 races after breaking his right leg and leg foot, was the comeback kid. Harvick was the defending Sprint Cup series champion. Truex



Jeff Gordon drives during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015, at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla.

was the underdog driving for a small team.

Gordon was the overwhelming sentimental favorite. It showed before, during and after the race. Hendrick Motorsports teammates Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson and Kasey Kahne as well as fellow drivers Danica Patrick and Kyle Larson wore Gordon tribute hats before the finale. Patrick wore one with old-school "rainbow warriors" colors.

Joey Logano posted a picture of him and Gordon on Facebook that showed them sharing a moment when Logano was little.

"You were my idol growing up," Logano wrote. "Never did I think I'd race against you for wins. Congrats on a great career Jeff Gordon." Harvick got a modern-day keepsake when he stopped by Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet — which got a police escort to pit road — and posed for a photo. NASCAR presented Gordon with a tribute video

during the pre-race drivers' meeting and then everyone in the room, including drivers, sponsors and dignitaries, gave him a standing ovation.

"Jeff, congratulations on an outstanding career. We thank you for all you've done for NASCAR and will do," NASCAR vice chairman Mike Helton said. "You're a true champion and a top-shelf guy."

Fans lined a red carpet leading to the meeting and showered Gordon with praise. Gordon responded by high-fiving scores of them.

The 44-year-old Gordon announced in January that this would be his last season. He won 93 races in 23 full seasons. He wanted one more — which would have been bigger than the rest.

He hopes to remember all the details of his celebratory day, including visits from racing legend Mario Andretti, three-time For-

nale.

It didn't happen, mostly because Gordon fought an ill-handling race car all afternoon. When it was over, Gordon thanked his crew and Hendrick over the team radio and then made his final turn down pit road.

Truex was among those who stopped by to offer support, reaching over the top of his car to shake Gordon's hand. NASCAR chairman Brian France also visited.

But nothing was like that moment with Hendrick, his longtime boss and lifelong friend. Gordon's helmet was created just for his final race and featured pictures of some of his career highlights. He handed it to Hendrick and said, "I want you to have this."

"It's like right now the racing doesn't matter as much as the relationship does," Hendrick said afterward.

"I'd have loved to have won it, loved to have seen him go out with a championship, but we went out in the top four and not many guys do better than that."

Gordon started to lose it as Hendrick whispered in his ear, but managed to keep his composure. At least for the time being. Gordon insisted that he'll "loosen up" with a little time and alcohol at his 400-person planned Sunday night.

"If he would have kept going with the things he was saying, it was going to get out of control there," Gordon said. "I was so happy to have that moment with him." □

Associated Press

mula One champion Lewis Hamilton and sports-car ace Scott Pruett. Gordon made sure his colleagues will remember the day, too. To commemorate his last race, Gordon gave each driver in the finale a carbon-fiber ring box inscribed with "Thanks For The Memories" and his or her starting position. Richard Petty did something similar before the 1992 season finale in Atlanta. Petty gave each driver in that race, including Gordon, a "Petty blue" money clip. Gordon kept it in a drawer and then a safe all these years.

"I just wanted everybody to have something as an appreciation from me to them of what they meant to me racing against them over all the years," Gordon said. "Seemed like they appreciated it."

On Saturday, Petty gave Gordon \$93 to put in the money clip and told him he had one more dollar ready for him should he win the fi-



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### NHL Capsules

## Sharks win 6th straight, beat Blue Jackets 5-3

**The Associated Press**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Joe Pavelski scored twice and the San Jose Sharks rallied late for a 5-3 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets for their sixth straight victory on Sunday night.

San Jose won its seventh straight road game by completing a perfect six-game trip. Patrick Marleau had a goal and an assist, and Brent Burns and Brenden Dillon also scored. Joel Ward added two assists and Alex Stalock made 28 saves.

Ryan Johansen, Boone Jenner and Cam Atkinson scored for Columbus. Sergei Bobrovsky finished with 24 saves.

Columbus led 3-1 after Atkinson's goal 1:23 into the third, but the Sharks stormed back with help from several key offensive zone faceoff wins. They took the lead by scoring three times in a 7:02 span, including Dillon's go-ahead score with 6:45 left.

**CANADIENS 4, ISLANDERS 2**  
**MONTREAL (AP)** — Alex Galchenyuk broke a tie with 3:29 left and Max Pacioretty added an empty-net goal to lift Montreal over New York to complete a weekend home-and-home sweep.



Vancouver Canucks' Adam Cracknell crashes into New Jersey Devils goalie Cory Schneider and the net after being taken down by Devils' Adam Larsson, front, of Sweden, during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Sunday, Nov 22, 2015.

**Associated Press**

Galchenyuk one-timed a pass from P.K. Subban for this third goal of the season during a power play. About 2 minutes later, the Islanders were called for too many men and Travis Hamonic was given a game misconduct penalty, setting up Pacioretty's power-play empty-netter.

David Desharnais also scored on the power play for his seventh goal and Tomas Fleischmann added his seventh this season for Montreal. Carey Price made 21 saves and the Ca-

nadiens followed a 5-3 win over the Islanders on Friday night with another victory. John Tavares gave New York a 1-0 lead late in the first period, and Anders Lee made it 2-1 Islanders with 8:07 left in the third.

**HURRICANES 4, KINGS 3**  
**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — Justin Faulk scored two power-play goals and Carolina snapped a five-game losing streak by beating Los Angeles. Brett Pesce scored his first NHL goal and added an

assist, and Jeff Skinner also scored for Carolina, which led 3-0 in the second period.

Faulk scored each of his goals in the second, giving him an NHL-best eight with the man advantage, and Cam Ward made 26 saves for the Hurricanes.

Anze Kopitar scored two goals, including one 58 seconds after Dustin Brown scored on a penalty shot, for Los Angeles. Jonathan Quick allowed four goals with 17 saves in two peri-

ods before Jhonas Enroth replaced him and made eight stops. The Kings have lost two straight after winning three in a row.

**DEVILS 3, CANUCKS 2**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)** — Mike Cammalleri had a goal and two assists, Cory Schneider made 36 saves against his former team and New Jersey beat Vancouver.

Andy Greene and Adam Henrique also scored to help New Jersey end a two-game skid.

Henrik Sedin and Radim Vrbata had goals for Vancouver, and Jacob Markstrom made 19 stops in his first home start of the season in place of resting No. 1 goalie Ryan Miller.

Drafted by Vancouver in 2004, Schneider spent three seasons with the Canucks before being traded to New Jersey at the 2013 draft as the first casualty of the protracted goaltending controversy involving himself and Roberto Luongo — Luongo was also traded, going to Florida in a deal that brought back Markstrom.

The 29-year-old Schneider got his first victory at Rogers Arena since the trade after going winless in his first tries. □

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### NFL Capsules

# Newton throws 5TDs as Panthers stay perfect

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina

(AP) — Cam Newton threw a career-high five touchdowns passes, and the Carolina Panthers improved to 10-0 with a 44-16 victory over the Washington Redskins on Sunday.

Newton completed 21 of 34 passes for 246 yards and threw TD passes to five different receivers as Carolina stretched its regular-season win streak to 14 games, including eight straight at home.

The Panthers are the 16th team in the Super Bowl era to start 10-0. Of the previous 15, all made the playoffs and nine have advanced to the Super Bowl, with six winning it all.

The Panthers scored 27 points off five Washington turnovers, three of those by quarterback Kirk Cousins.

Newton became the first Carolina quarterback to throw four TD passes in the first half as the Panthers jumped to a 31-14 lead. Jonathan Stewart ran for 102 yards on 21 carries and caught a 12-yard touchdown pass. Mike Tolbert, Greg Olsen, Ted Ginn Jr. and Devin Funchess also caught TD passes.

Andre Roberts had a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown for the Redskins (4-6), who've lost nine straight on the road.

**CARDINALS 34, BENGALS 31**  
GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Chandler Catanzaro

kicked a 32-yard field goal with 2 seconds remaining and Arizona escaped with

a wild victory over Cincinnati.

The field goal was considerably closer than it would have been because Cincinnati's Domata Peko was called for unsportsmanlike conduct for calling out the offensive signals as the Cardinals (8-2) were about to spike the ball to set up the kick.

Carson Palmer overcame two early interceptions to throw four touchdown passes and, with 57 seconds left, completed three quick passes to move the team into field goal range after the Bengals rallied to tie it at 31.

Andy Dalton threw two touchdown passes for the Bengals (8-2), both to Tyler Eifert. The second cut, a 10-yarder, cut it to 31-28 with 3:44 to play.

**BUCCANEERS 45, EAGLES 17**  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jameis Winston and Doug Martin were an unstoppable combination.

Winston tied a rookie record with five touchdown passes, Martin ran for 235 yards for the Buccaneers. Winston completed 19 of 29 passes for 246 yards and had four of his TD passes in the first half to four different receivers. He tied Matthew Stafford's rookie mark in the third quarter on an 8-yard toss to Cameron Brate, the fifth receiver to catch a TD. Martin had 177 yards in the first half, including runs of 84 and 58 yards. He finished 2 yards short of tying Barry Sanders' record for most



Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton (1) evades the tackle of Washington Redskins' Jason Hatcher (97) in the first half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015.

Associated Press

without a TD. Sanders had 237 for the Lions against Tampa in 1994.

Tampa set a franchise record with 283 yards rushing and 521 total yards and were second most in franchise history in the regular season.

The Buccaneers (5-5) have won two straight games for the first time in two years. The Eagles (4-6) have lost two in a row, but are only one game behind the New York Giants (5-5) in the mediocre NFC East.

Mark Sanchez threw a pair of TD passes in his first start replacing injured Sam Bradford, but Chip Kelly's offense couldn't keep up with Winston and the Buccaneers.

**COWBOYS 24, DOLPHINS 14**  
MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Tony Romo pulled off his latest comeback victory, returning from a collarbone injury to throw for two scores as the Cowboys won for the first time since he was hurt in Week 2.

The Cowboys (3-7) snapped a seven-game losing streak, their longest in

a single season since 1989. The Dolphins (4-6) increased the likelihood they'll miss the playoffs for the seventh year in a row. Romo went 18 for 28 for 227 yards, and overcame two interceptions by throwing touchdown passes of 31 yards to Terrance Williams and 16 yards to Dez Bryant. Dallas linebacker Rolando McClain scored the game's first points and his first career touchdown on a 12-yard interception return. Miami had the ball for only 21 minutes.

**BRONCOS 17, BEARS 15**

CHICAGO (AP) — Brock Osweiler threw for two touchdowns, and the Broncos stopped Jeremy Langford on a 2-point conversion run in the final minute.

Langford scored on a 2-yard run with 24 seconds left to cap a 65-yard drive. But he ran into a crowd on a conversion attempt, and the Broncos (8-2) escaped. Osweiler completed 20 of 27 passes for 250 yards with five-time MVP Manning staying back in Denver because of injuries to his foot,

ribs and shoulder. Ronnie Hillman ran for 102 yards, and the AFC West-leading Broncos (8-2) got back to winning — against former coach John Fox, too — after dropping two in a row. Osweiler threw a 48-yard touchdown to Demaryius Thomas on Denver's first possession of the game and a 10-yarder to Cody Latimer early in the fourth quarter to make it 17-9. The Bears (4-6) then drove to the Denver 4, only to have Jay Cutler's fourth-down pass to Langford in a crowd in the end zone get broken up.

**RAVENS 16, RAMS 13**

BALTIMORE (AP) — Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco tore ligaments in his left knee during the closing seconds of a 16-13 victory over the Rams. The Ravens also lost running back Justin Forsett, who broke both bones in his right forearm. Justin Tucker kicked a 47-yard field goal as time expired to end a mistake-filled game in which the Ravens rallied from a 10-point deficit. □



## NBA Capsules

# Warriors match record start to season with win vs. Nuggets

**DENVER (AP)** — Klay Thompson scored 21 points and the Golden State Warriors tied the best start in NBA history, beating the Denver Nuggets 118-105 on Sunday night to move to 15-0.

Golden State matches the start of the 1948-49 Washington Capitols and the '93-94 Houston Rockets. The Warriors can break the record Tuesday at home against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Here's more history: The Warriors surpassed the '57-58 Boston Celtics for the best start by a defending champion.

Thompson hit a 3-point shot with 2:08 remaining in the second quarter and Golden State never trailed again. The reserves built up a sizeable lead and allowed Stephen Curry to rest the entire fourth quarter. He had 19 points, the first time this season Curry hasn't reached 20.

Darrell Arthur had 21 points for the Nuggets, who've lost three straight.

### **THUNDER 117, MAVERICKS 114**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Russell Westbrook had 31 points and 11 assists, hitting two key baskets in the final 63 seconds, and Oklahoma City rallied from a double-digit third-quarter deficit to snap Dallas' six-game winning streak.

Serge Ibaka had 16 points, nine rebounds and a key late blocked shot for Oklahoma City, which was without star forward Kevin Durant (injured hamstring) for the sixth straight game. Westbrook broke a 113-113 tie with a jumper with 1:03 left. Zaza Pachulia made 1 of 2 from the free-throw line to pull the Mavericks within a point before Westbrook's 18-foot jumper with 24 seconds left capped the scoring.

Deron Williams led Dallas with 20 points, but missed an 18-footer and had his layup attempt blocked by Ibaka on consecutive possessions, and Wesley Matthews' last-second off-balance heave from 3-point range came no-

where close to the basket. **PELICANS 122, SUNS 116**

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Anthony Davis capped a 32-point, 19-rebound performance with a tiebreaking 3 in the final minute to lead New Orleans past Phoenix.

Davis, whose rebound total set a season high, also blocked four shots and had two steals. His last block came with 22 sec-

3-pointers. Brandon Knight had 19 points, but missed 13 of 18 shots.

### **NETS 111, CELTICS 101**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Brook Lopez had 23 points and 10 rebounds, Jarrett Jack scored 13 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and Brooklyn earned a split of the teams' home-and-home series.

Two nights after the Celtics won by 25 in Boston,

scored each of his 21 points in the first half, and Toronto held Blake Griffin and Chris Paul scoreless through the first 20-plus minutes of a win over the Clippers.

Luis Scola added 20 points and Kyle Lowry had 13 points and 10 assists for Toronto, which closed out a 2-3 road trip. The Raptors (9-6) shot just 37 percent from the field, but they

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Damian Lillard had 30 points and a career-high 13 assists, and C.J. McCollum added 19 points in Portland's sixth consecutive victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Mason Plumlee added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Blazers, who have won two straight after a seven-game skid. Portland has won a franchise-record



**Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, front, fields pass as Denver Nuggets guard Emmanuel Mudiay, center, defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015, in Denver.**  
**Associated Press**

onds left, when he tapped Mirza Teletovic's 3-point attempt from the right corner offline. The ball fell to Pelicans guard Ish Smith, and New Orleans held on from there.

Ryan Anderson, who scored 30 in each of his previous two games, had 29 points for New Orleans. Eric Gordon added 20 points, while Smith had 17 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Eric Bledsoe scored 29 points for Phoenix, which lost despite hitting 17

the Nets dominated the second quarter that was pivotal in both games and held on after blowing most of a 22-point lead, their largest of the season.

Joe Johnson added 17 points for the Nets, who have won two in a row at home, where they have barely played this season. Isaiah Thomas and Avery Bradley each scored 27 points for the Celtics.

### **RAPTORS 91, CLIPPERS 80**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — DeMar DeRozan had 21 points, DeMarre Carroll

outrebounded the Clippers 46-42 and forced 19 turnovers.

J.J. Redick scored 17 points for Los Angeles (6-7), which has lost three straight and seven of nine after starting the season 4-0. The only other time they were under .500 during Doc Rivers' two-plus seasons as coach was after his first game on the job, which they lost to the Lakers before winning their next three.

### **TRAIL BLAZERS 107, LAKERS 93**

five straight road games against the Lakers after maintaining a steady lead throughout the second half.

Kobe Bryant scored 18 points on 6-for-22 shooting, missing all five of his 3-point attempts in the Lakers' third straight loss. Los Angeles' 2-11 start is one game behind their pace from last season, the worst year in franchise history.

Jordan Clarkson led the Lakers with 19 points, and Lou Williams added 14. □





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## TV Buying Guide: Get out tape measure before shopping

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — If you're shopping for a TV, get out a tape measure and do some quick calculations before you head to the store. And count the number of gadgets you'll want to connect to your screen.

Buying a TV is no longer just choosing how big a screen you want.

Here are some big decisions you'll face:

### HD OR 4K?

There's an emerging picture standard that offers four times the pixels of today's high definition. It's known as ultra-high definition, or 4K. But do you need it?

Measure the distance between your couch and the spot for your new TV. If you're sitting far away, a regular HD set will be just fine — for \$100 to \$200 less. The farther away you sit, the less the extra pixels matter, as your eyes won't notice the difference. Conversely, the bigger the screen you have, the worse the resolution will be, and you'll notice that more when you're closer up.

How good is good enough?

A rough rule of thumb: You should sit back a little more than 1.5 times the diagonal length of the screen for TVs with full HD, also known as 1080p. So if a screen is 48 inches, or 4 feet, that's 6 feet back. For 4K, it's one to one, or 4 feet for that same screen. If your couch is 7 feet back, having 4K isn't worth it because you won't be able to tell the difference anyway. But it might if your couch is 4 or 5 feet back.

The calculation isn't that easy, but we've created this online tool to help



In this Jan. 5, 2015, file photo, Joe Stinziano, executive vice president of Samsung Electronics America, introduces a Samsung SUHD 4K TV at a news conference in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

you: <http://interactives.ap.org/2015/tv-buying-guide/>

Also consider how little 4K content there is. A few streaming services, including Netflix, Amazon and M-Go, offer some 4K content, and a standard for 4K Blu-ray discs is coming together this year. But 4K broadcasts are potentially years away. Buying a 4K TV now is mostly about being ready for the future.

You also have to consider whether you'll be sitting so close to a big screen that you'll have to move your head to look left or right. Jim Willcox, senior editor at Consumer Reports, says the ideal viewing width is about 30 to 40 degrees. Our online tool will warn you if you are too close and might want a smaller screen instead.

### HDMI PORTS

The more the merrier. TVs will have at least two, but I recommend three or four. If you pay for cable or sat-

ellite TV, you'll need one for your set-top box, then one more for a streaming device or Blu-ray player. If you want to add a game console or sound bar, you see how quickly they can fill up.

Switches that let you connect multiple HDMI devices sell for \$9 to \$30, but that could mean another remote control to fiddle with, or getting up to press a button. Better to get extra ports with your TV.

### SMART TV/WI-FI

Many TVs come with Wi-Fi connectivity and apps from major services like Netflix and Hulu. Using this for streaming will save you an HDMI port.

But stand-alone streaming devices have more features. If voice control is your thing, for instance, go for more ports to plug in your Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV or other device. Some TVs have voice control, but Apple's Siri will be better at recognizing

your voice because it gets fine-tuned through millions of interactions on smartphones.

If you plan to use a smart TV for streaming, consider the type of Wi-Fi it comes with. The best right now is 802.11ac, which can deliver several gigabits per second of data. You'll want the best, especially for 4K video.

### REFRESH RATE

Manufacturers fudge how fast images are refreshed on screen with technologies called "Aquamoion" or "Motionflow" that show "effective" refresh rates. These help smooth out fast-action scenes that might otherwise look stuttered or blurry. It's largely a matter of taste and personal sensitivity.

The minimum native refresh rate you'll see these days is 60 frames per second, or 60Hz. The most is around 120 Hz.

Steve Kindig, senior editor at electronics retailer

Crutchfield.com, says that even though 60 frames per second is the highest that will come from Blu-ray discs or video games, higher rates on a TV will still cut down on blur. Either the TV's processor will interpolate frames between each actual frame, or the backlight will blink, reducing the stutter.

He says to play down effective refresh rates that are wildly higher than the native, though "it's not totally bunk because they are doing something."

Consumer Reports rates specific models with blur tests, but doesn't generalize about brands or numbers.

### OTHER SCREEN FEATURES

Curved screens just look cool sitting on a stand, and some people say it cuts down on reflective glare, according to Kindig. They're about \$200 more than non-curved screens and mostly made by Samsung. But he says they don't look good mounted on a wall.

Organic light-emitting diode screens are pricey, but will give you true blacks and better color representation because each pixel illuminates on its own. Regular, LCD screens require a backlight, which can wash out the colors a bit. If you're willing to pay for OLED, you'll likely get every other goodie thrown in besides 4K.

More expensive sets might also offer 3-D. "Active" glasses require batteries, which add to the weight and trouble of wearing them, but will offer better resolution. "Passive" glasses, like the ones you get in movie theaters, will suffice for those few times you want to settle in for a 3-D movie, likely on disc. Content is still limited. □



## After best week of 2015, markets fade after early gains

**MARLEY JAY**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Stocks gained ground early Monday as they came off their best week in 2015, but faded in the afternoon and sustained small losses for the day.

Technology stocks fell more than the rest of the market. Pfizer and Allergan slipped after announcing a deal to combine and cre-

dex fell 2.44 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,102.48.

The S&P 500 index rose 3.3 percent last week, lifted by good news from retailers and tech stocks. That was its largest weekly gain since last December. However, it wasn't quite enough to cancel out the big loss the S&P suffered the previous week.

Pfizer, the maker of Viagra and Lipitor, said it will buy

through, it will be one of the largest corporate transactions in history. It's also the biggest deal in 2015, a year that has been filled with big mergers. Just two weeks ago, Budweiser maker AB InBev agreed to buy rival beer maker SAB-Miller for \$107 billion.

Pfizer gave up 85 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$31.33 and Allergan fell \$10.74, or 3.4 percent, to \$301.72. The

slipped after it reported a smaller quarterly profit and less revenue than analysts had forecast. The company said sales of new games and game systems weren't as good as it expected, and sales were also hurt by delays in opening some stores. Its shares slid \$1.65, or 4.2 percent, to \$37.61. Video game maker Electronic Arts fell after GameStop's announcement, losing \$3.44, or 4.8 percent, to \$68.98.

Consumer discretionary stocks rose. Chipotle Mexican Grill rebounded \$23.10, or 4.3 percent, to \$559.29. The stock dropped 12 percent and set an annual low Friday on reports that an E. coli outbreak linked to its restaurants had spread. Amazon rose \$10.54, or 1.6 percent, to \$678.99 days before Black Friday. Macy's, which like many retailers has taken a beating on fears the holiday shopping season will be weak, rose \$1.44, or 3.7 percent, to \$40.04.

Tuesday morning the Conference Board will release its latest Consumer Confidence report. That will give investors more insight into how consumers are feeling and how much they'll spend shopping.

Tobias Levkovich, chief U.S. Equity Strategist for Citi Investment Research, said consumers will keep spending because businesses are hiring, energy costs and interest rates are low, and there are some signs that wages are increasing. □



**Traders James Matthews, left, and John Panin work at the post that handles Pfizer, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Nov. 23, 2015. Stocks gained ground early Monday as they came off their best week in 2015, but faded in the afternoon and sustained small losses for the day.**  
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ate the world's largest drug company. GameStop skidded after reporting weak results.

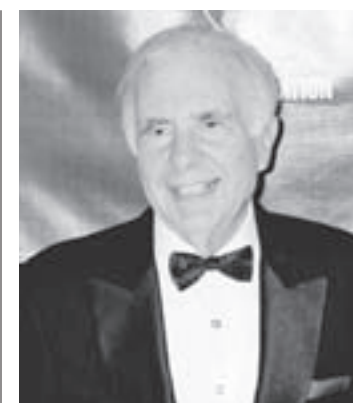
The Dow Jones industrial average lost 31.13 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,792.68. The Standard & Poor's 500 index declined 2.58 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,086.59. The Nasdaq composite in-

Botox maker Allergan for about \$155 billion. The New York-based company will gain new products that will help it counteract the expiration of patents protecting some key drugs. Pfizer will also become based in Ireland as part of the deal, reducing its tax bill.

If the purchase goes

companies said last month that they were discussing a combination, and Allergan shares are up about 6 percent since then while Pfizer stock has lost 11 percent.

Apple dragged down the technology sector as its stock fell \$1.55, or 1.3 percent, to \$117.75. Video game retailer GameStop



**Financier Carl Icahn poses for photos in New York.**

(AP Photo/Henny Abrams)

### Carl Icahn claims AIG CEO unwilling to break up firm

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Activist investor Carl Icahn is putting more pressure on American International Group Inc. to break itself into three separate companies.

Icahn said Monday on his website that after speaking with AIG CEO Peter Hancock several times, Hancock remains unwilling to split the insurer up. Icahn vowed to reach out to shareholders directly and said he may propose adding a new director who would agree to succeed Hancock as CEO if asked by the board to do so.

AIG confirmed Monday that it is maintaining an "active dialogue" with Icahn. AIG said that it has considered breaking the company up, but that the maneuver, "did not make financial sense."

Last month, Icahn said AIG was "too big to succeed," a play on the phrase "too big to fail," which was used during the financial crisis to explain why the government was forced to prevent the total collapse of AIG. It was reasoned at the time that the collapse of AIG would have a cascading effect, dragging down other companies entangled in the growing financial crisis.

The U.S. bailed out AIG at a cost of \$85 billion, money the company has since repaid. However, it has had to cut its business dramatically to focus on its core insurance operations.

Icahn said Monday that he owns more than 42 million shares of AIG, which would give him a more than 3 percent stake in the New York company. □

## Chipotle bounces back after end-of-week sell-off

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Chipotle rebounded from a heavy sell-off in shares to end last week after it was discovered that the E. coli outbreak connected to restaurant chain had spread from the Pacific Northwest to a number of other states. In all, 45 people in six states have been affected, with 43 of those saying they ate at Chipotle the week before they became sick. However, analysts who follow the restaurant chain

say the damage to the company may be limited. The equity research team at William Blair found that of the 800 people they surveyed earlier this month, nearly half were unaware of the E. coli outbreak linked to the restaurant. And the older the survey taker, the higher the rate of awareness, which is good news because Chipotle customers tend to skew under 45 years old.

Analyst Sharon Zackfia

wrote that an outbreak of salmonella at 22 Chipotle restaurants in Minnesota "resulted in a double-digit drop in sales in the affected region for a few weeks before sales largely recovered."

The E. coli outbreak, however, has received much more attention, however, and the Denver company closed 43 restaurants in Oregon and Washington in late October after health officials discovered most

of the people sickened in the outbreak had eaten at its restaurants. Those restaurants have since reopened, but new cases were announced Friday in California, New York, Ohio, and Minnesota.

Shares of Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. rose 4.5 percent to \$560.48 in early trading Monday.

Shares fell 12 percent Friday and they were down sharply before the opening bell. □



## How to fly free forever: Put \$170 million on your AmEx

**KEN SWEET**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Chinese billionaire Liu Yiqian, who doesn't exactly struggle to afford a plane ticket, can now likely fly free, in first class, with his whole family, anywhere in the world, for the rest of his life.

All because he bought a painting.

Liu was the winning bidder for Amedeo Modigliani's "Reclining Nude" at a Christie's auction this month — offering \$170.4 million — and when the sale closes he'll be putting it on his American Express card.

Liu, a high-profile collector of Chinese antiquities and art, has used his AmEx in the past when he's won art auctions. He put a \$36 million tea cup from the Ming Dynasty on his AmEx last year, according to reports, and put other artifacts on his card this year. He and his wife said they plan on using their American Express card to pay for the Modigliani, according to news reports after the sale.

American Express will not confirm Liu Yiqian's Modigliani purchase, or say if it would be the biggest ever on their cards, citing privacy reasons. But it can be done. "In theory, it's possible to put a (\$170 million purchase) on an American Express card," said American Express spokeswoman Elizabeth Crosta. "It is based on our relationship with that individual card member and these decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, based on our knowledge of their spending patterns."

Liu has an American Express Centurion Card, also known as the AmEx "black card," an invitation-only card that is given only to AmEx's biggest spending clients. The card has no official credit limit — and it earns points, just like most of the cards non-billionaires carry around.

Each AmEx card issued in each country accrues points differently. But using a baseline of one point per dollar, what American Express uses for its U.S. Platinum and Centurion Cards, Liu will earn 170,400,000 Membership Rewards points for his painting purchase, which doesn't include tax or the fees Christie's charges. He has likely earned tens of millions of points for his earlier fine art buys, like the expensive tea cup.

Liu and his wife, in an interview with The New York Times, said they plan to use the points to allow their family to travel for the rest of their lives.

That shouldn't be a problem, according to Zach Honig, editor-in-chief of the travel rewards site ThePointsGuy.com.

"He's probably reached that goal with that single painting," Honig says.

Honig estimates that if Liu converted his Membership Rewards points into one of a number of airline frequent flier programs, he and his family could travel anywhere, in style. He could fly 3,000 times between the U.S. and Europe in the ultra-deluxe first class suites offered by Singapore Airlines (estimated cost: \$17,800 round trip), if he converted points to Singapore's program. Even if Liu wanted to use his AmEx points to pay for flights, a less efficient use of them, he could still redeem those points for hundreds of first class flights anywhere in the world.

One potential loser here could be Christie's. Every time an American Express card holder uses the card, AmEx charges the merchant a fee. That fee is usually 2 to 3 percent, depending on the merchant. For a \$170 million painting, millions of dollars could flow to AmEx instead of Christie's — enough, presumably, for AmEx to pay for the Liu family's future flights, and then some. □

## \$160B Pfizer and Allergan deal raises outcry

**LINDA JOHNSON**

**TOM MURPHY**

**AP Business Writers**

A \$160 billion deal announced Monday to merge Pfizer and Allergan and create the world's biggest drug company renewed the outcry in Washington over "inversions," in which U.S. corporations combine with companies overseas to lower their tax bill.

The combination — the second-largest merger in history — could have ramifications around the globe, pushing up drug prices and spurring more such deals

Democratic presidential contenders, criticized the deal.

Clinton said it will leave "U.S. taxpayers holding the bag," while Sanders said it will be a "disaster" for Americans already paying high prescription drug costs.

Asked if the deal was designed to avoid taxes, Pfizer CEO Ian Read said only that company executives' obligation is to shareholders and patients.

The merger is subject to approval from regulators in the U.S., European Union and elsewhere. It also needs

companies have inverted in the past decade, and more are considering it, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service. Treasury said it had no comment Monday.

The health care sector has been the hottest in U.S. mergers this year and last, with deals worth \$451 billion, according to Dealogic.

Drugmakers, insurers and pharmacy chains are combining to boost revenue, cut costs and increase their clout in negotiating prices and contracts. Each new deal puts pressure on small-



**A man enters Pfizer's world headquarters, Monday, Nov. 23, 2015, in New York. Pfizer and Allergan will join in a \$160 billion deal to create the world's largest drugmaker.**

**(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)**

in the fast-consolidating health care sector and other fields.

It is also increasing the election-year backlash from U.S. politicians who have been criticizing drugmakers recently over medicine prices that sometimes exceed \$100,000 a year.

In what would be the biggest inversion ever, Pfizer could save hundreds of millions in U.S. taxes because it would move its tax headquarters from America to Ireland, where Allergan is based. Pfizer, which currently operates out of New York, would slash its tax rate from around 25 percent this year to about 18 percent.

Inversions have long been attacked by some politicians as a tax dodge, and Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bernie Sanders, the leading

the go-ahead from shareholders of both countries. Pfizer makes such drugs as Viagra, cholesterol-lowering Lipitor and the clot-preventer Eliquis. Allergan produces the wrinkle treatment Botox and Restasis for dry eyes, and also has a superior pipeline of medicines in development.

If it goes through, the merger will return Pfizer to the top spot in the pharmaceutical industry, after years in which competition from cheaper generics cut into its revenue from some of its blockbuster drugs.

The combination will essentially be Pfizer "but with a lower tax rate," wrote Bernstein analyst Tim Anderson. Despite attempts by Congress and the Treasury Department to thwart the practice, about 50 U.S.

er rivals to bulk up.

John Colley, a professor at Warwick Business School in Britain, predicted even bigger deals as "industry players become concerned about being left behind in the race for scale."

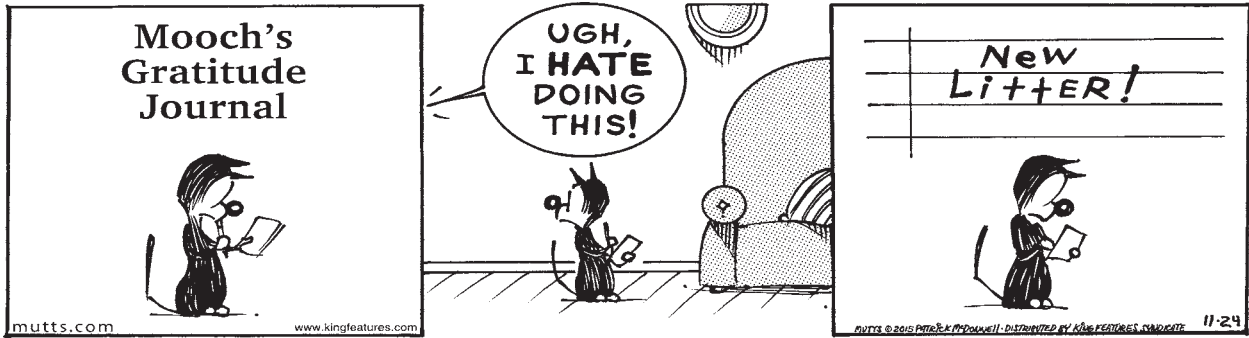
For consumers, however, such combinations could lead to higher drug prices, as well as higher taxes to cover the lost tax revenue, said Jerry Reisman, a New York merger expert.

"We're all going to feel this," he said.

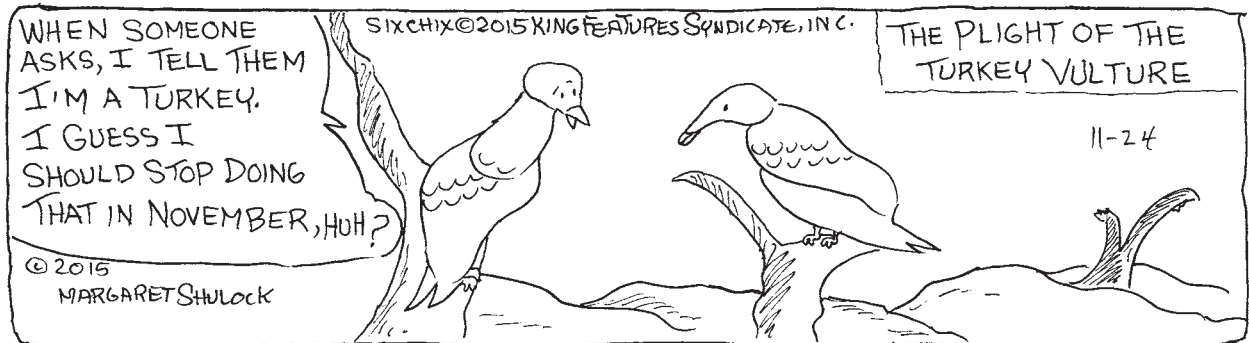
The deal will enable the combined company to pour around \$9 billion a year into research on new treatments, Read said in an interview. That includes work on cures for Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's, cancer and other difficult-to-treat illnesses. □



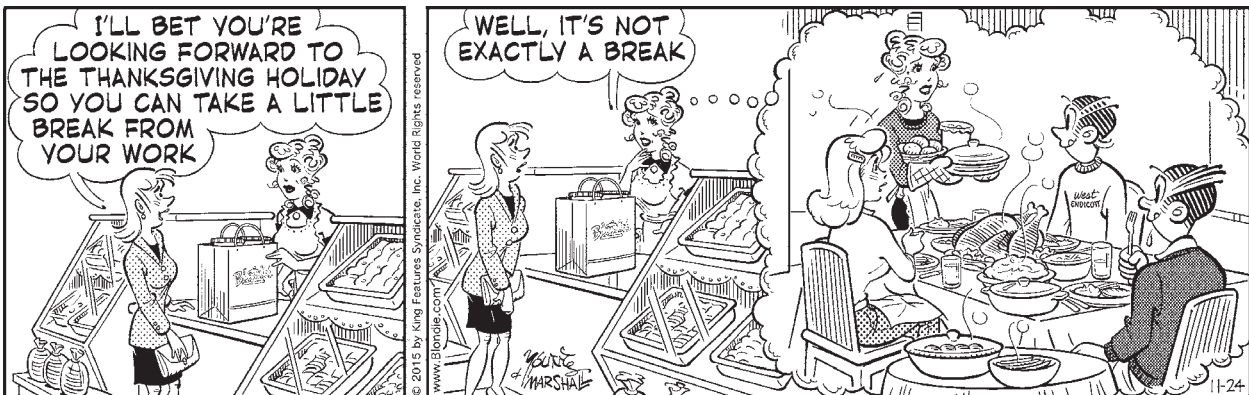
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

		3		8	4	6	1	
2	6						7	
4								5
9			4		2			
7								3
			1		9			2
8								7
	5						3	6
	4	9	3	5		2		

Difficulty Level ★★

11/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

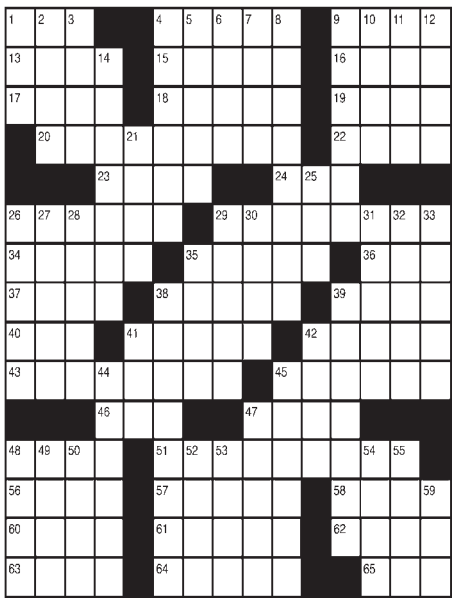
3	7	5	1	9	6	2	4	8
2	6	1	4	8	7	5	3	9
4	9	8	3	5	2	1	7	6
9	4	3	6	1	8	7	5	2
8	2	7	5	3	9	6	1	4
5	1	6	2	7	4	8	9	3
1	5	2	9	6	3	4	8	7
7	3	4	8	2	5	9	6	1
6	8	9	7	4	1	3	2	5

## ACROSS

- Perish
- Barking marine mammals
- Like water — duck's back
- "Beehive State"
- Vietnam's capital
- Claim against property
- Craps cubes
- Go — a limb; be daring
- Mild oath
- Tearing to bits
- His and —
- Pie à la —
- Ms. Thurman
- Very smart
- Affairs of state
- Takes a nap
- As — a hornet
- Touch lightly
- Swiss skier's milieu
- Restaurant
- Rational
- Daniel — Kim
- Warbles
- Intestinal part
- Brief summary
- Formed a spiral
- Baseball stick
- Yank on
- Unexceptional
- Foolishness
- Bangkok native
- Makes invalid
- Lunchtime
- Squirts WD-40 on
- Shut
- Attire
- Verse writer
- Lessened
- Last page of a calendar: abbr.

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/24/15



## Monday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	N	D	G	A	T	E	S	I	M	P	S
I	C	E	D	A	S	I	D	E	R	E	A	L
T	H	E	E	L	I	P	S	E	R	V	I	C
S	O	D	A	L	A	S	A	I	R	E	D	
		L	I	N	E	N	T	I	N			
P	R	E	T	T	I		B	O	N	G	O	S
O	A	S	I	S		S	L	U	R	S	V	E
K	I	S	S	P	I	A	N	O	B	E	T	A
E	L	L	S	L	A	P	S	S	E	R	U	M
		S	Y	S	T	E	M	S	C	A	L	P
		C	A	D		L	L	A	M			
A	B	D	U	L		M	A	I	M	P	R	O
C	O	R	R	E	S	P	O	N	D		U	P
H	A	I	R		P	E	A	C	E		F	E
E	S	P	Y		A	G	N	E	S		O	D

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11/24/15

## DOWN

- Flop; lemon
- "...will be done on earth as — in heaven..."
- Every
- Poorly built
- cologne; perfume
- Know- —; smarty-pants
- Paddled boat
- wastefully; squander
- Twiggy's skirt
- Mile or kilometer

- Making dirty
- Jacuzzi
- Icy
- Woodwind player
- Used foul language
- Sign of life in the wrist

- Word in an octagon
- Toledo's state
- Store event
- Future tulip
- Messy person
- Frog's cousin
- Olden times
- Major network



## Turkey soul searching after fans' disrespect

SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)** — On a night of European soccer matches between national teams, the scenes in London and Istanbul were a study in contrast. The British and French fans at London's Wembley Stadium sang the French national anthem in solidarity over the Paris attacks, while in Istanbul hundreds of Turkish fans booed the Greek national anthem and disrupted a moment of silence for those killed in Paris.

The ugly incident illustrated what has been an ambivalent reaction to the attacks in Turkey — France's NATO ally.

While soccer fans are in no way representative of society as a whole, the scenes showed that the Paris attacks did not draw the same outpouring of grief as elsewhere in the mainly Muslim country, where recent research showed 8 percent of the population had a favorable view of the Islamic State group. Analysts said the episode revealed the dim view some Turks have of European nations they accuse of insensitivity toward attacks by Kurdish rebels and other groups that have plagued Turkey over the past few decades.

During the outburst at Istanbul's Basaksehir Fatih Terim Stadium on Tuesday night, team captain and Barcelona midfielder Arda tried fruitlessly to silence the crowd. And after the match ended in a 0-0 draw, Turkey's national team manager was furious.

"What has happened to us?" Fatih Terim said at a post-match news conference. "As we hold a minute of silence for the dead, can't we show patience even for a minute?"



Turkey's players observe a minute of silence to honour the victims of the Paris attacks prior to an international friendly soccer match against Greece, in Istanbul, Tuesday Nov. 17, 2015 (AP Photo/Leffteris Pitarakis)

The incident unfolded as the prime ministers of Turkey and Greece watched together from the stands as part of efforts to overcome historically strained ties — adding further embarrassment.

It drew strong criticism from

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who appealed for soul-searching: "This is unacceptable," he said. "We are not a nation that cannot show respect to the anthem of another country. This is something we have to solve." □

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wk 40	room 336	\$3,750
wk 40	room 105	\$5,000
wk 42	room 338	\$4,000
wk 43	room 329	\$3,250
wk 49	room 144	\$5,500
wk 48 or 49	room 119	\$4,750
wk 48 or 49	room 551	\$5,500
wk 49 or 50	room 203	\$5,500
wk 49	542 room	\$3,000
wk 21 or 22	room 347	\$4,000
wk 51	room 347	\$12,500

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200  
[vr.realty@mac.com](mailto:vr.realty@mac.com)

203667

### Time -Share for sale by owner Divi Village

wk 46 1 bdr, rm 117. M. Fees pay only when used. Gold season, mid nov special asses due 2475 below mrkt price  
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204158

### Time -Share for sale by owner Mill Resort

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NOORD	527-3200
STA. CRUZ	527-2900
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
HOSPITAL	527-4000
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AMBULANCE	582-1234
CENTRO MEDICO	523-8833

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TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
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204168





## Pesticide-makers point to other culprits in bee die-offs

**EMERY P. DALESIO**  
**AP Business Writer**

**RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, North Carolina (AP)** — In

a Nordic-inspired building tucked in a corner of the Bayer CropScience North American headquarters, high school students wander through 6,000 square feet (more than 550 square meters) dedicated entirely to the specialness of bees. Children taste different types of honey and examine the differences between honeybee and carpenter bee specimens. The pesticide maker highlights its work to foster the insects around the world, welcoming school-age children at the site built apart from plant research labs and executive offices. Amid the displays are bottles of Bayer pesticides, something that struck Cara Garrison, a student at Raleigh's St. Thomas More Academy, as odd.

"I thought it was a little weird to see some of that among all the bee-related things," Garrison said. "I was like, is that supposed to be there?"

That display in that building captures Bayer's multi-billion-dollar balancing act. Some of those pesticides contain tobacco-derived chemicals called neonicotinoids that many researchers say play a role in declining bee populations. Bayer spent \$12 million last year, when it earned profits of more than \$3.6 billion, promoting bee health as the world's top neonic maker and No. 2 Syngenta fend off suggestions the chemicals are bee-killers. Both companies are fighting pressure from regulators in the U.S. and Europe with publicity campaigns and lobbying aimed at telling people that neon-

ics are beneficial and safe when used correctly, and that bees face greater peril from parasites, pathogens and poor diets as wild flowering plants diminish. Bee die-offs could disrupt the human food chain, with a third of the foods consumed by Americans and Europeans dependent on pollinators like them. Researchers suspect neonic pesticides play some

ers and other plants bees need to feed. Their representatives are speaking at beekeepers' conferences and visiting agricultural research universities. Besides inviting visitors to bee centers on its corporate campuses outside Raleigh, North Carolina, and Monheim, Germany, Bayer offers teachers a downloadable digital science lesson about bees. A

try's efforts to confound people by highlighting inconclusive science.

"I call it a red herring. You claim that ours isn't the only problem, so therefore it isn't a problem," said Massachusetts beekeeper Dick Callahan, a retired executive with a doctorate in entomology who co-authored a Harvard study on the effects of neonics on honeybees. The com-

could face extensive crop losses since old pesticides have been phased out because of the hazards they posed to humans and wildlife, said Dominic Reisig, an insect researcher at North Carolina State University who advises farmers.

"I think the final verdict is still out there" on how large a role neonics play in bee deaths, Reisig said. "I would say clearly there's something there, but is it one percent? Ten percent? Ninety percent? We don't know."

Bayer produces three of the world's top five neonic pesticides in a worldwide market estimated to be worth about \$3 billion, with Bayer's two top-selling products taking about half the market, said Sanjiv Rana, editor-in-chief of Agrow, a trade publication for the agricultural chemicals industry. Syngenta's best-selling neonic is worth about \$1 billion in annual sales, Rana said.

Becky Langer, the Bayer CropScience manager for U.S. bee health, denied the company's 4-year-old campaign is related to the company's neonic sales. It grew out of decades of research on the interaction of chemicals and the crucial pollinators, she said.

"One didn't pop up because of the other," said Langer, whose center oversees bee field research locations in North Carolina, California and Ontario, Canada. She said: "Bee numbers are actually not declining." But that depends how you count. On the one hand, figures from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and the U.S. Department of Agriculture show there are more bee colonies now than 30 years ago. □



**St. Thomas More Academy student Maggie McGrath, right, is reflected in a window between her and a tray of bees held by Sarah Myers, a manager at the Bayer North American Bee Care Center, during a student tour of the center in Research Triangle Park, N.C., Tuesday, Sep. 15, 2015.**

**Associated Press**

role in reported die-offs and the mysterious Colony Collapse Disorder. But they don't know how much. A comparison of more than three dozen pesticides found neonics produced by Bayer CropScience and Syngenta among the chemicals most toxic to bees, according to a September study by USDA researchers.

Bayer, Syngenta and Monsanto — which coats its seeds with neonics — are encouraging nonprofits, landowners and governments to plant more flow-

company Twitter feed promotes the benefits of neonics and studies that refute their link to bee deaths, often using the hashtag #FeedABee.

A global agro-chemical trade magazine recently honored Bayer's pro-bees campaign for what judges said was its effort "to broaden understanding and shift conversation from blaming solely pesticides towards a multiplicity of factors."

Critics say that is all little more than propaganda akin to the cigarette indus-

panies blame a parasitic mite as the biggest bee-killer. Callahan said while the mite may be the greatest adversary of his honeybees, it doesn't explain why mite-free bumble bees are also disappearing.

Neonics were a breakthrough because they can be used to coat seeds rather than sprayed over plants. As the plant sprouts, the chemical is incorporated into every part of it — from roots, to stalk, to the flowers that attract bees and butterflies.

Without neonics, growers



# Can 'The Force Awakens' become the biggest movie ever?



This photo provided by Disney shows Daisy Ridley as Rey, left, and John Boyega as Finn, in a scene from the new film, "Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens," directed by J.J. Abrams. The movie releases in the U.S. on Dec. 18, 2015. Associated Press

**RYAN NAKASHIMA**

**AP Business Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Riding galaxy-sized expectations, the new "Star Wars" movie is already setting records for pre-opening ticket sales, with still a month to go. But does that mean the movie's destined to be the biggest of all time? Though several signs point in that direction, the outcome isn't guaranteed. The movie is on track to have the biggest December opening ever, topping "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," which took in \$85 million in the U.S. and Canada on its opening weekend in December 2012.

Ticket seller Fandango says advance ticket sales for "Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens" has already topped every other movie, though it didn't provide figures. Imax says it has sold \$18 million domestically, double the previous record. Imax receipts account for a third of pre-release sales for this movie, putting the domestic total at more than \$50 million. Whether it bests the biggest grosser of all time — "Avatar," with \$2.8 billion worldwide — depends on word of mouth and whether fans love it enough to watch it multiple times through the new year.

"Star Wars" will have the advantage of having weak competition for months. Marvel's "Deadpool" doesn't come out until mid-February, while Warner Bros.' "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" isn't out until late March.

"I think it's going to own January," said Erik Davis, managing editor of Fandango, one of the nation's largest online ticket retailers. "I know one guy who has nine tickets to see it in the first week alone. That's what we're talking about." A single ticket in big cities can cost \$25 or more after paying for extras like Imax and 3-D.

Social media activity is also off the charts, according to entertainment news website Moviepilot Inc. Exactly a month from release, "The Force Awakens" had 405 million trailer and teaser views on Facebook and YouTube. That's 87 percent more than this summer's "Jurassic World," which opened domestically with a record \$208.8 million in ticket sales and owns the all-time No. 3 spot with \$1.7 billion worldwide. No. 2 is "Titanic," at \$2.1 billion. What's more, the 178,000 weekly searches for the movie on Google is more than three times as high as "Jurassic World," which

had 51,800 weekly searches a month from release, according to Moviepilot. "People are searching and craving and demanding content," Moviepilot CEO Tobi Bauckhage said. "That's a very strong signal."

To be sure, December releases tend to be smaller than in the summer, so coming out on top may take a marathon rather than a sprint.

As for the all-time high, one thing "Avatar" had going for it: It rode a wave of consumer interest in 3-D, which costs a few dollars more than regular tickets. That frenzy has largely cooled off. Traditionalists with a nostalgia for the originals might prefer 2-D screenings, especially with director J.J. Abrams' use of more realistic-looking special effects like puppetry. The Walt Disney Co., which owns "Star Wars" maker Lucasfilm, declined to comment.

Advance sales don't always equate to record grosses. The first installment of "The Hunger Games" was the leader in advance sales, but topped out at a worldwide gross of \$693 million, not even in the all-time Top 10.

What "The Force Awakens" benefits from, however, is interest that now spans

multiple generations. The movie also has a much bigger Chinese box office to tap. "Avatar" pulled down a monstrous \$204 million in China through 2010, but the theatrical market there is now at least three times as big. The big unknown is that no one's actually seen the movie yet.

It could make the difference between the so-so reaction to the "Star Wars" prequels in Episodes 1 to

3 — with heavily parodied characters like Jar Jar Binks and video-game-like action scenes — and the satisfying revival that fans are hoping for.

"The brand name alone and the excitement for the franchise will get huge numbers in the door," Rentrak senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian said. "But for very long-term prospects, you have to have a movie that delivers." □

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**33**

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SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:35 | 7:30

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SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

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SAT 1:45 | 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55  
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## Rhimes embarks on life-changing journey in 'Year of Yes'

LINCÉE RAY

Associated Press

When you think about Thursday-night television, the term "Shondaland" probably comes to mind. ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," "Scandal" and "How to Get Away With Murder" dominate the small screen, and Shonda Rhimes is the brain, heart and life of these successful shows. She's the voice behind numerous characters that are considered bold, sometimes twisty — and fearless. Rhimes' stories are relatable. She writes what people feel, what they are afraid to say and what SHE is afraid to say.

She acknowledges that her world used to be a very small place. Rhimes loved the "hum" of a schedule that included writing and producing television shows, as well as raising her three daughters. As her celebrity grew, she became more

aware of her lack of desire to be in the spotlight. She didn't have the time, and the idea of speaking in front of a large audience scared her.

When her sister pointed out that she never said "yes" to any social events or publicity opportunities, Rhimes considered the magnitude of that statement. She decided to challenge her inner-introvert and say "yes" to any invitation that came her way. The results were transformative.

Instead of writing passionate narratives for her TV characters, Rhimes adopted their pluck and bold attitudes and attacked life with a new sense of purpose. She learned to accept compliments. She lost more than 100 pounds. She became a more creative writer.

Who knew that such a small word could have such a life-changing impact? By



In this Feb. 19, 2015 file photo, Shonda Rhimes arrives at the 8th Annual Essence Black Women In Hollywood Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif. Rhimes has a candid new memoir, "Year of Yes" (Simon & Schuster) out Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015.

Associated Press

saying "yes," she learned in the sun. Dr. Cristina Yang (a character on "Grey's Anatomy") would be so proud. □

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